

# **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste**

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The devastation, pain, and death caused by leaking toxic gas at a Union Carbide pesticide plant in India has shaken the lives of human beings everywhere. This is particularly true of those who live in large populated communities near chemical plants and those threatened by proposed toxic waste facilities.

People of the Ironbound section of Newark read about this disaster with a chilling realism, recognizing the threats to their lives caused by illegal toxic waste dumping, not to mention proposed facilities.

We recall with horror the many close calls we have experienced such as the fire at 140 Thomas Street, where toxic wastes and explosives are still illegally stored. Two months ago a disaster was averted when a fire on George Street, where potentially lethal cyanide was stored at a manufacturing plant, was put out in time. Fires involving chemicals and accidents with railroad cars transporting chemicals have plagued our neighborhood in recent years. Workers died in an explosion at McKesson EnviroSystems and at the Texaco gasolite facility on Doremus Ave., but fortunately we've escaped catastrophe.

Our revitalized and historic Ironbound is threatened by other illegally stored toxic wastes at Scientific Chemical Processing and Albert Steel Drum. We do not forget that the Ironbound is home to the highest levels of dioxin contamination in the country. The State has designated two Superfund sites in the Ironbound.

Ironbound people have been praised for their hard work and industry that has renewed this section of the city. At the same time we are being stabbed in the back by the same hand that praises us, and we are expected to accept without question additional toxic waste facilities. This we will not do! We are human beings and deserve to be treated as such. We will not roll over and play dead, or dead we will be.

Another dangerous new facility proposed for our neighborhood is the At-Sea Corp. plan for Port Newark. They want to build a 7,500,000 gallon storage tank farm and bring toxic waste from all over the country to our area. In addition, the McKesson company wants to reopen its toxic waste disposal facility, that exploded October, 1982 killing a worker.

As if this were not enough Essex County and the Port Authority now want to punish us further by proposing to build a huge garbage incinerator plant in our neighborhood. That's it, we've had enough, and enough is surely enough! We refuse to submit to any further attempts to destroy our homes.

For the last five years the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes has taken up the fight for Ironbound people, when no one, including elected officials, would. We have been in court, we are testifying at public hearings, and are continuing to demonstrate to make our voices heard. The toxic leak in India that killed some 2,500 people proves once again that toxic waste facilities do not belong in highly populated areas. Even with large multi-national corporations like Union Carbide, accidents will happen. They do not have a monopoly on safety. These accidents do not limit themselves to one area. An accident in the Ironbound could effect people in Newark, as well as other areas of Essex, Hudson, Union, and Bergen Counties and even New York, depending on wind direction. In India, a 25 square mile area of population was laid low. Let's minimize the risk to human life by not allowing any new toxic waste facility to make Ironbound their home.

The Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste needs your active help in this fight. Come to meetings and public hearings. Help us with phone calls and distributing

literature. Your contributions help with costs of printing and legal battles.

Only united will we win the battle for a safe place to live. Come join us!